UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/181
20 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/848)]

45/181. International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which it adopted the report of the United Nations Water Conference and approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan 1/ concerning drinking water supply and sanitation, and other agreements reached at the Conference, 35/18 of 10 November 1980, by which it proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and 40/171 of 17 December 1985 concerning the mid-term review of the Decade,

Bearing in mind that the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, the World Summit for Children, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 and 30 September 1990, and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 2/ among others, reaffirmed the goals and objectives of providing safe water and sanitation for all,

Deeply concerned that, notwithstanding the achievements attained during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the current rate of progress remains slow and would leave a very significant number of poor people in urban and rural areas without suitable and sustainable services in water and sanitation by the year 2000,

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1/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

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Recognizing that in most developing countries a lowering of the rate of population growth will relieve the strains on social services and infrastructures, including services relating to drinking water supply and sanitation,

Recognizing also that the 1990s will require an intensification of national efforts and international co-operation to provide adequate and safe drinking water and sanitation, which are crucial for health, for all by the end of the century,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the achievements of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade; 3/

2. Welcomes the New Delhi Statement, 4/ adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990, hosted by the Government of India and organized by the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Endorses the four guiding principles, the actions recommended and the proposed follow-up, as enunciated in the New Delhi Statement, pertaining to the need to protect environment and health, the need for institutional reforms, including the full participation of women, the need to promote community management and the need to adopt sound financial practices and appropriate technologies;

4. Urges Governments, in their efforts to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and in the New Delhi Statement, to stress the following important objectives:

(a) To assign greater priority to the allocation of development financing to water supply and sanitation by seeking a better integration of the sector within the overall development planning process and to allocate a greater proportion of resources to low-income urban and rural areas, while addressing the deteriorating economic, social and environmental conditions in those areas;

(b) To implement programmes aimed at expanding service coverage within the framework of integrated water resources and environmental planning and management, in the context of sustainable national social and economic plans and urban and rural development policies, and to orient them towards services that reflect community needs and are used by beneficiaries;

(c) To ensure appropriate utilization of existing financial resources and mobilize additional funds from Governments, donors and non-governmental organizations, and to draw on the resources of the local communities;

3/ A/45/327.

4/ A/C.2/45/3, annex.

(d) To assess and undertake institutional reforms to promote an integrated approach, including changes in procedure, attitude and behaviour, and the full participation of women at all levels in sector institutions;

(e) To assess the current status of institutions with a view to strengthening national capacities to plan and manage water supply and environmental sanitation programmes and to enable them to improve operational and financial efficiency;

(f) To increase their efforts to improve the efficiency and use of available financial resources by, inter alia, continuing to expand the use of cost-effective appropriate technologies, and to intensify South-South co-operation in that regard;

5. Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to increase their financial and technical support to the national endeavours of developing countries in that regard;

6. Urges donor Governments, multilateral financial and development institutions and non-governmental organizations to give favourable consideration to requests for grants and concessional financing arrangements to support water supply and sanitation programmes in developing countries;

7. Emphasizes the importance of intensifying the co-ordination of national activities undertaken with the assistance of all relevant agencies in the field of water supply and sanitation through, in particular, the interagency Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council;

8. Decides to review, at its fiftieth session, the progress made during the first half of the 1990s, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council, on further progress made in attaining the ultimate goal of providing a safe water supply and sanitation for all, including proposals for the action needed for the remainder of the Decade, with special emphasis on the efforts made at the national level and on international co-operation.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990